

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY	Bulgaria	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Optical Materials Supply and Distribution	DATE DISTR.	11 March 1953
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This is UNEVALUATED Information

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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1. The Bulgarian Government distributes optical products intended for internal distribution as follows:
 - a. Sixty-five percent to Government shops;
 - b. Twenty percent to the cooperatives; and
 - c. Fifteen percent to municipal shops.
2. The Optika Cooperative, an affiliate of the Union of Cooperatives, was founded in 1948 by four private workshops in Sofia. Originally it had seven members, but had expanded to include 35 members by the end of 1951. The central shop is at No. 2 Graf Ignatiev Street and the branches are located at No. 7 Graf Ignatiev, No. 23 Biruzov, and Regenska Streets.
3. In addition to the Cooperative shops, there are three Government shops and one Municipal shop in Sofia which deal with optical equipment.
4. The Optika Cooperative must buy the items which it is offered by the Union of Cooperatives, rather than what it requires, at any particular time. As a result, frames and lenses which cannot possibly be sold pile up in the shops, and some items, such as astigmatic lenses which are in great demand, cannot be obtained.
5. Since Bulgaria has no factories which produce optical equipment, all such articles available are of foreign manufacture. A small quantity of lenses is obtained from Czechoslovakia and Hungary. Zeiss lenses are generally imported from the USSR and occasionally from Hungary. Most of the glass frames are received from the USSR and are very expensive in spite of being of very poor quality; glass frames of Soviet manufacture, for example, cost 500 leva while good Italian frames would cost only 350 leva. Microscopes and magnifying glasses are not supplied. Items which are needed by Government institutions are imported as needed and allocated directly to the institution. Cameras may be used only with special permission.

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(Note: Washington Distribution Indicated By "X"; Field Distribution By "#".)

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6. A school for training opticians was recently established in Sofia under the direction of Popov (fnu) who spent several years at the Zeiss Plant under the sponsorship of the Bulgarian Government. To date, the school has produced only small microscopes of very limited capabilities.
7. There is a shortage of raw materials for the production of even the simplest optical instruments. The Cooperative has machinery for the production of glass frames and lenses which was presented by the J.D.C. (sic) to a Jewish cooperative in Sofia after World War II, which however, cannot be used because of the lack of "red powder" for grinding, felt, and other materials.
8. Members of the Optika Cooperative receive the following wages and dividends:
 - a. Cooperative director, 16,000 leva per month;
 - b. Specialists, 12,500 leva per month;
 - c. Non-specialists, 10,000 leva per month; and
 - d. Yearly dividends which are divided among the members in accordance with the capital which each had invested; these dividends are so small that no practical value can be attached to them.
9. The cooperative is required to pay 30 percent of its income into Government funds in the form of taxes, and 50 percent of its income into various other funds, such as 30 percent for the cultural fund, 10 percent for the reserve fund, etc.

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Comment: The 1952 Sofia telephone directory lists optical establishments as follows:

Opticheski Magazini (Optics Stores)

- Store No. 1, No. 6 Stalin Boulevard
- Store No. 2, No. 135 Rakovski Street
- Store No. 3, No. 7 Graf Ignatiev Street

Optika Cooperative

- Production and Distribution, No. 36 Yanko Sakuzov Boulevard
- Optika office, No. 33 Alabinska Street
- Optika office, No. 33 Alabinska Street
- Optika workshop, No. 151 Khristo Botev Boulevard
- Optika store No. 1
- Optika store No. 2, No. 29 Alabinska Street
- Optika store No. 3, No. 2 Graf Ignatiev Street
- Optika store No. 4, No. 9 Georgi Dimitrov Boulevard
- Optika store No. 5, No. 7 Graf Ignatiev Street

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